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PAGE 01 STATE 204429

61

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-11

FMC-04 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-07

SWF-02 L-03 SS-20 NSC-07 TRSE-00 TAR-02 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-03 /119 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CAN:DCHOLTON:MGH

APPROVED BY EUR/CAN:EMBROWN

DOT:PLARSEN (PHONE)

----- 045423

P 172014Z SEP 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIORITY

AMCONSUL QUEBEC

AMCONSUL TORONTO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, CA

SUBJECT: GREAT LAKES PILOTAGE: WASHINGTON MEETING
SEPTEMBER 13

1. SUMMARY: GOC AND USG OFFICIALS DISCUSSED PARTICIPATION AND RELATED ISSUES AT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT) SEPT 13 AND ADJOURNED WITHOUT LONG TERM AGREEMENT BUT WITH GOC OFFICIALS EXPRESSING READINESS TO SEEK CANADIAN PILOTS' ACCEPTANCE OF SHORT TERM PLAN. RESUMPTION OF PILOTAGE IN WELLAND APPARENTLY HINGED ON CANADIAN PILOTS' REACTION. GOC OFFICIALS PESSIMISTIC. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER INITIAL PROBING, CANADIAN DELEGATION HEADED BY G.A. SCOTT, ACTING DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, MADE THREE-PART PROPOSAL: (A) U.S. AND CANADIAN PILOTS SHARE
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PAGE 02 STATE 204429

EQUALLY IN TRAFFIC IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, DEFINED ONLY

AS LAKE ST. CLAIR-DETROIT RIVER AND ST. MARY'S RIVER;
(B) WHEN SHIP IS IN LAKE OF DESTINATION, NATIONALITY OF
PILOT DETERMINED BY NATIONALITY OF PORT OF DESTINATION;
(C) NO CHANGES IN DISTRICT ONE INCLUDING WELLAND. PRO-
POSAL WOULD GIVE CANADIANS ABOUT 45 OF REVENUE, BASED ON
1973 TRAFFIC.

3. DOT UNDERSECRETARY BARNUM, HEADING US DELEGATION, NOTED
CANADIAN PROPOSAL HAD BEEN REJECTED IN AN EARLIER MEETING;
WOULD REDUCE U.S. PARTICIPATION; AND WOULD RETURN TO

CANADA HALF OF THE DETROIT-PORT HURON TRAFFIC, ALL OF
WHICH U.S. PILOTS HAD ASSUMED SINCE 1969 IN RETURN FOR
RELINQUISHING PARTICIPATION IN WELLAND.

4. U.S. THEN PROPOSED CANADIAN PLAN INCLUDE WELLAND CANAL
AND ST. LAWRENCE RIVER (FROM LAKE ONTARIO TO ST. REGIS) AS
INTERNATIONAL WATERS. (REFERENCE TO BOUNDARY WATERS
TREATY STOPPED CANADIAN OBJECTION THAT WELLAND IS NATIONAL
WATERS.) THIS WOULD GIVE CANADIANS ABOUT 40 OF REVENUES.

5. CANADIANS DECLARED THIS WHOLLY UNACCEPTABLE, BUT CON-
SIDERED COMPROMISE WHICH WOULD LEAVE DISTRICT ONE UN-
CHANGED, MAKE LAKE MICHIGAN U.S. ONLY, ALLOCATE SHIPS FROM
PORT HURON AND GROS CAP ACCORDING TO NATIONALITY OF DES-
TINATION (WOULD MEAN ABOUT 75 US), GIVE CANADIAN PILOTS
HALF OF SHIPS ON DETROIT RIVER SOUTH OF DETROIT, AND GIVE
CANADIANS SAME PROPORTION OF SHIPS BETWEEN PORT HURON AND
DETROIT AS U.S. PILOTS WOULD BE GIVEN IN WELLAND.

6. CANADIAN PILOTS WOULD NOT ACCEPT AMERICAN PARTICIPA-
TION IN WELLAND, CANADIANS DECLARED. U.S. SAID THIS
SIMPLY WOULD MEAN NO TRAFFIC TO CANADIAN PILOTS BETWEEN
DETROIT AND PORT HURON. U.S. PRESSED FOR IMPLEMENTING
THE PROPOSAL ON THIS BASIS AS INTERIM SOLUTION (LATER
FOUND TO MEAN ABOUT 44-45 OF REVENUE TO CANADIANS), AND
URGED THAT LONG-TERM SOLUTION (PARA 4) BE INTRODUCED IN
1976 OR 1977.

7. VOICING CONSIDERABLE PESSIMISM, CANADIANS AGREED TO
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PAGE 03 STATE 204429

ATTEMPT TO GAIN THEIR PILOTS' ACCEPTANCE OF THE INTERIM
SOLUTION, AND TO ATTEMPT TO START TRAFFIC THROUGH WELLAND
AGAIN, WITH USG COMMITMENT TO OBTAIN US PILOTS ADHERENCE
TO AGREED DISPATCHING PROCEDURES. CANADIANS ALSO INDI-
CATED EAGERNESS TO IMPLEMENT JOINT RATES AS SOON AS NON-
TARIFF ISSUES SETTLED. MEETING ADJOURNED WITH CANADIANS
APPARENTLY INTENT ON DISCUSSIONS WITH THEIR PILOTS AND
RESUMPTION OF TALKS WITH U.S., IF NECESSARY, AS QUICKLY

AS POSSIBLE.

8. AGREED PRESS STATEMENT WOULD SAY DELEGATIONS HAD LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS AFTER WHICH CANADIAN DELEGATION RETURNED TO OTTAWA TO DISCUSS AGREED PROPOSALS WITH CANADIAN PILOTS.

9. DOT EXPECTS MEET WITH US PILOTS' REPRESENTATIVES SEPTEMBER 19 TO BRIEF ON U.S. PROPOSAL AND TO DISCUSS DISPATCHING. UNDERSTAND U.S. AND CANADIAN PILOTS MEETING TOGETHER AND MAY RESUME 1973 ARRANGEMENTS AS INTERIM MEASURE IF USG GUARANTEES DISPATCHING.

10. ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY CAN DISCRETELY OBTAIN ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS ON CANADIAN SIDE WILL BE APPRECIATED. CANADIAN DELEGATION WAS SCOTT, W.A. O'NEIL, L.M. DUSSAULT, AND C. KENNEDY, ALL MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT; R. QUAIL, GREAT LAKES PILOTAGE AUTHORITY; J.K. MERKLINGER AND R.P. MCDOUGAL, CANADIAN EMBASSY.

11. BOTH DOT AND CANADIAN OFFICIALS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AMEMBASSY ROLE IN INITIATING SEPTEMBER 13 MEETING. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, LABOR UNIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE204429
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DCHOLTON:MGH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740260-0838
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740938/aaaabfyk.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <16-Aug-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREAT LAKES PILOTAGE: WASHINGTON MEETING SEPTEMBER 13
TAGS: EWWT, CA
To: OTTAWA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005